

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 /070 W  
----- 102305

R 300159Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4734

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4636

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CH, TW, HK

SUBJ: "KMT WAR CRIMINALS" IN HONG KONG

1. HONG KONG PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT FIVE OF THE TEN RECENTLY-AMNESTIED "KMT WAR CRIMINALS" CONTACTED A TAIPEI-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION AND THAT THREE OF THE MEN HAVE RETURNED COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS, THUS MOVING THEM A STEP CLOSER TO ACCEPTING TAIWAN'S PRECONDITIONS FOR THEIR ENTRY. ROBERT DER (ACTING AS TAIPEI'S UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE) REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE MEN WOULD NOT BE TREATED AS "REFUGEES." HOWEVER, SOME OF THE ELDERLY RELEASEES, WHO JUST RECEIVED A SECOND HKG EXTENSION OF STAY IN THE COLONY UNTIL MAY 5, HAVE YET TO RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND NONE HAVE COMPLIED WITH TAIWAN DEMANDS THAT THEY PUBLICLY VOICE ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-MAOIST SENTIMENTS (APPARENTLY BEFORE DEPARTING HONG KONG).

2. WITH THE RUSH OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, THE INTERNATIONAL  
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PRESS HAS NOT GIVEN THE ISSUE TOP ATTENTION. LOCAL COMMUNIST

PRESS OF COURSE HAS GIVEN IT HEAVY PLAY WHILE PRO-KMT COMMENT HAS BEEN LIMITED. THE LOCAL INDEPENDENT PRESS HAS PROVIDED STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE WHICH IN EFFECT HAS GIVEN PROMINENCE TO HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS AND THUS CREATED FURTHER IMPRESSION OF TAIWAN INFLEXIBILITY AND INSENSITIVITY.

3. MAJOR PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS HERE ON APRIL 28 AND 29 HAVE FRONT-PAGED ARTICLES BY TWO AMNESTIED "KMT WAR CRIMINALS" IN CHINA: HUANG WEI, WHO HEADED THE LIST OF THE LATEST GROUP RELEASED, AND TU YU-MING, WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE FIRST GROUP AMNESTIED IN 1959. HUANG CRITICIZES TAIWAN'S ERECTION OF ENTRY BARRIERS, DECLARES REFUSAL TO ACCEPT RELEASED PRISONERS OF WAR IS UNPRECEDENTED AND MENTIONS HE WOULD INDEFINITELY DELAY HIS POSSIBLE TRAVEL TO TAIWAN--A REMARK INDICATING THAT OTHER RELEASEES WERE EXPECTING TO APPLY FOR VISITS TO TAIWAN AS WELL. AN APRIL 29 ARTICLE BY TU (FATHER-IN-LAW OF US NOBEL PRIZE WINNING PHYSICIST YANG CHEN-NING) OSTENSIBLY IS IN RESPONSE TO GRC PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN'S RECENT COMMENTS ON THE RELEASEES. TU QUESTIONS WHY TAIWAN, WHILE CLAIMING TO BE A BASTION OF FREEDOM AND CONTENDING THAT PEOPLE ON THE MAINLAND ARE ENSLAVED AND IMPRISONED AND LIVING BEHIND AN "IRON CURTAIN," HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW THESE EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" TO ENTER TAIWAN AND TALK ABOUT THEIR MAINLAND EXPERIENCES. HE ASKS WHAT TAIWAN HAS TO FEAR FROM ONLY TEN MEN AND ASSERTS THAT THE ATTITUDE OF TAIWAN AUTHORITIES WILL CAUSE THEM TO LOSE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. PEKING ON APRIL 25 ALSO BROADCAST TO TAIWAN SIMILAR MESSAGES FROM OTHER RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS."

4. PEKING CONTINUES TO PUSH ITS PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE, HOPING UNDOUBTEDLY TO ACHIEVE A FIRST "UNITED FRONT" TYPE CONTACT WITH TAIPEI. TU'S REMARKS PORTRAYING TAIWAN AS HYPOCRITICAL AND CALLOUS AND CHALLENGING TAIWAN'S CLAIM OF BEING A FREE SOCIETY SEEM TO BE AIMED NOT ONLY AT OVERSEAS CHINESE IN HONG KONG AND SEA BUT AT A US AUDIENCE AS WELL. CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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